

REVIEWS

CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Richard W. B. Ellis, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. (Pp. x + 525; figs. 81. 42s.) London: Churchill, 1956.

For this new edition the work has been substantially rewritten and new subjects discussed include Genetical Aspects of Child Health, Child Guidance, Vocational Guidance, Health Education, Punishment, and Child Health in the Tropics. Many of these, and the other activities discussed in Part II—Social Aspects of Child Health, are now also the concern of a large number of trained lay workers employed by the State and Local Authorities. If medical men are to continue to interest themselves and advise on all that concerns the health and well-being of children they must also be informed on these activities. Nowhere else will they find so much useful information on these topics collected and discussed within a reasonable space.

About half of the book is devoted to development, and this includes chapters on prenatal development, the newborn, digestion, nutrition and feeding, feeding habits, postnatal growth, puberty and adolescence, intellectual, emotional and instinctive development and immunity. Throughout the book is concerned with the healthy child, his physical and mental growth and his place in society. It is not directly concerned with the diseased child.

The editor is responsible for five of the twenty-three chapters and for a broad-based and stimulating introduction. He has had the assistance of sixteen other contributors. The outcome is an up-to-date book, well edited, and providing the practitioner with information both for everyday application and for reference.

RECENT RESEARCH ON VITAMINS. British Medical Bulletin; Volume 12, No. 1; January, 1956. (Pp. 1-90. 15s.) London: British Council, 1956.

This number of the British Medical Bulletin was planned under the direction of Sir Edward Mellanby. It now appears as a fitting memorial number and carries a tribute to Sir Edward by Sir Charles Harington.

Medical men, as well as those engaged in research on vitamins and nutrition, will welcome this number. Some of the contributions are highly technical, but much information of value to those concerned with applied nutrition is also provided. A valuable article, "Vitamins in Nutrition: Orientations and Perspectives," by B. S. Platt, and an article on the B vitamins in the blood and intestinal tract by L. J. Witts are among those of greatest interest to medical men. A useful review of the effect of processing on the vitamin content of food is provided by L. W. Mapson, and the more specialised reader will be interested in the report on the chemistry and mode of action of vitamin B₁₂.

This must be considered one of the most valuable and generally useful of the important series of symposia published as numbers of the British Medical Bulletin.

DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR. By I Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E. Sixth Edition. (Pp. xiii + 463; figs. 84. 20s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1956.

DISEASES of the Nose, Throat and Ear, by I. Simson Hall, is one of the relatively few books on the subject suitable for students and practitioners. It covers the whole field of the speciality superficially, but with sufficient detail to enable diagnosis and treatment to be carried out successfully.

It has not, perhaps, been brought fully up to date; the illustrations of instruments particularly could be improved; some of the more modern techniques have not been included. But for the purpose for which it was intended it is one of the best publications we have.

The text is clear and adequate in size and the paper of good quality; the illustrations and diagrams are adequate, and clear in their presentation.

F. A. MacL.